



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



EXCELLENCE

w/c 27 November 2023 Week B



This week we have had our second House Week of the academic year. The focus has been on communication skills. Students have discussed what good communication skills are and why they are important.

Congratulations to the cast and crew for this year's senior school production, running across two nights earlier this week. Ms Cave described 'Locked in' as 'a highly entertaining piece of Drama'. Furthermore, 'the production was tight and the significant dialogue was word perfect. We were all transported to a collapsing manor house and wondering who of the cast would be left standing. It was a great evening's entertainment!'.

As mentioned last week, we are now in our Pre-Public Examination season for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. There have been language speaking exams this week. Next week sees the start of written and practical examinations for Year 13 and Year 11, respectively. These offer a great practice -run for the final examinations in the summer and will provide really useful feedback for students and their class teachers to inform planning and intervention. Good luck to all students!

Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support with reminding our students about our mobile phone rule. These must be switched off and in bags all day at school, including during break and lunch times.

Have a great weekend everyone.

M A Grantham

Head of School

HOUSE POINTS

Mapledurham 52261 50894 Grove Rosehill 53980 Caversham 51200

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term dates can be found here: 2023/24

Term 2

All Week: Y13 PPEs

Mon 27 Nov: Y11 Photography/Textiles PPE

Tue 28 Nov: Y11 Photography/Textiles PPE

Y11 Rugby Match

Wed 29 Nov: Y8 Ignite Scheme at Reading

University

Thurs 30 Nov: Art/Art Graphics PPEs

Fri 1 Dec: Art/Art Graphics PPEs

Christmas Fair

























Information

The Highdown Herald

The latest edition of our student led newspaper, The Highdown Herald is now available to view of our <u>website</u>.

Berkshire Music Trust October Newsletter

Please click <u>here</u> to read the latest copy of the Berkshire Music Trust Newsletter.



ParentMail Accounts

We respectfully request all parents and carers regularly check their student's dinner money balances to ensure they are in credit.

At peak times, around mid-morning, it can take up to 2 hours for the monies to show on the account.

Therefore, if you need to top them up, please allow time for these to be processed. We have found topping up in the evenings to be the quickest way to add monies to the account.

Absence Reporting

Please notify us if your son/daughter is unable to attend either online or onsite lessons due to illness or other reason.

Please report all absences using the Class Charts app rather than by telephone, email or ParentMail. We hope parents will find this route much more straightforward and efficient. You can find out more here:

https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1803&type=pdf.

Problems with Class Charts

If you are experiencing issues with accessing your Class Charts account, please contact office@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Brookfields' Christmas Party

A group of Year 12s are holding a party for Brookfields School in December. We are looking for Christmas decorations to decorate the barn with and would be very grateful for any donations of decorations you no longer need or use.

Thank you in advance!

Year 12 Enrichment



Courses for Parents



Reading Families' Forum

Special United

The voice of young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their siblings

Come and join us

on

Wednesday 29th November 2023 from 6pm-8pm

The Avenue School, Conwy Close, Reading, RG30 4BZ

We will be joined by Jenna Redmond, who is the Autism Advisor at Brighter Future for Children. The Autism Advisory Service supports families within the Reading Borough that receive a diagnosis of Autism for their child. Jenna will be talking to young people about the support that is available to them, and would like feedback about your experiences of being autistic.

We will also be joined by the Reading Local Offer Team who have information about services in the area for young people with SEND and their families.





£10 Amazon vouchers for all young people who take part plus a free chip shop takeaway!

Special United evenings are open to any Reading young people who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities aged 8-25 years old and their siblings.

To book email lisaharry14@aol.com

RSVP No later than Tuesday 28th November 2023
We look forward to seeing you!

www.readingfamiliesforum.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1166585

Tel: 07516 185380



Online Courses for Parents and Carers - December 2023

Understanding Autism & Anxiety Workshop 6 December 2023, 9.30am - 12.00pm Free online session via MS Teams

For parents/carers of Reading pupils ages 6 -16.

A 2.5 hour workshop targeted towards parents/carers of children with a diagnosis of autism or those who may be awaiting a diagnosis. It looks at common drivers for anxiety in those with autism, especially in relation to coping with uncertainty and not knowing what might happen. The workshop gives parents a chance to share their experiences and to learn strategies and approaches to manage anxious feelings.

To book or for more information email: Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org



Football Success

The Year 7 girls' football team won the annual five a side tournament. They won every game and only conceded one goal. Leila Negro-Halpin was the top goal scorer. Well done!

Mr Thompson

eBooks and Audiobooks

We are aware that there has been a problem with Year 7s logging into the ePlatform system to access eBooks and Audiobooks.....this has now been fixed!!

Students should follow the link below or download the ePlatform app to their device and sign in with their Highdown log-in.

https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/library

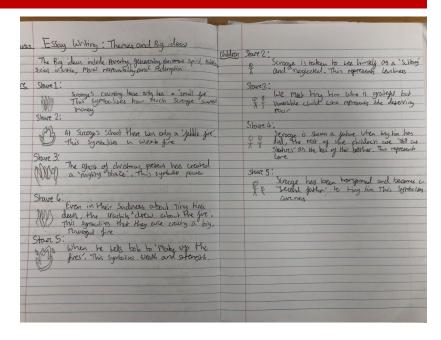
If there are any further problems or questions the students can come and see me in the Hive or send an email to librarian@highdown.reading.sch.uk

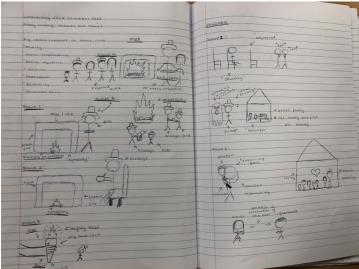
Happy reading!

Mrs Robinson - Librarian

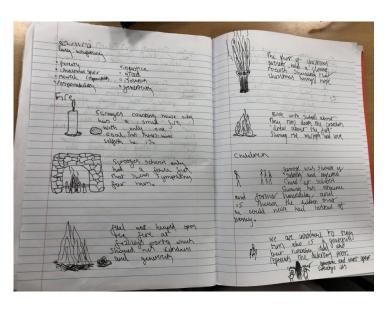
Year 10

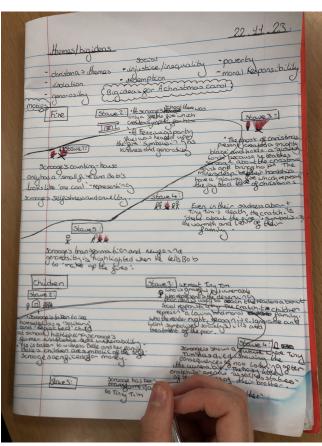
Year 10 students have been working hard in Miss Pickaver's English class to develop their understanding of key motifs in 'A Christmas Carol' by creating dual coded infographics.





Well done to Isla Piercy, Nilo Lambert, Emily Kingsmill and Theo Bingley whose work is featured here.





Year 10





On Monday, 13 November the Year 10 Boys Achievement group had a pizza making session. The boys took to the project with great enthusiasm and much debate was had about what the correct pizza toppings are! As the boys enjoyed their creations, all discussed what their pizza choice says about them. Well done to all involved!

Mr Lester













Year 11 and Year 13: Top Tips For Helping Your Child Revise

Top tips for helping your child succeed in their learning

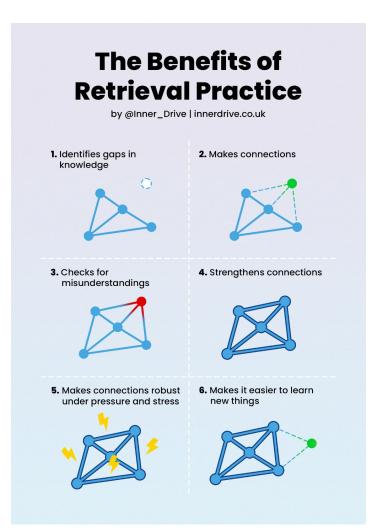
As the Year 11 and Year 13 PPEs approach, you may be wondering what you can do to help your child succeed.

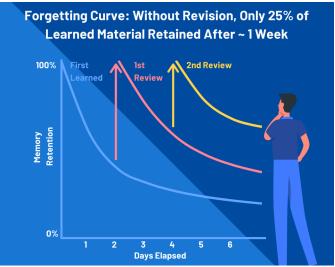
Last week's newsletter had links to advice and guidance about spacing and interleaving revision.

This week I'd like to share the scientific findings about the benefits of **retrieval practice**. Low stakes quizzing and quick testing to retrieve revised information ensures that there is continual expose to information and that connections are made, learning is consolidated, and the information is less likely to be forgotten.

The image of the 'forgetting curve' highlights how you may forget something but a quick retrieval quiz at home or in school can ensure the thoughts and ideas are renewed. Each time you retrieve information, the long-term effect is that it takes longer to forget. More information is on this link: https://www.structural-learning.com/post/ebbinghaus-forgetting-curve#:~:text=Regular%20Retrieval%20Practice,corrective%20feedback%20that%20they%20Practice.

So why not quiz your young person at home about what they have been learning and help them keep that information in their long term memory?





House Week



This week was House Week 2 with a focus on communication skills. Students were encouraged to hone these skills through the creation of Christmas crafts for the upcoming Christmas Fayre. From giant paper chains to glittery baubles, it was wonderful to see students working together towards a common purpose. Please encourage your child to visit the Fayre next Friday, 1 December after school until 4.30pm in the Walled Garden. All money raised will be given to the House Charities.

Mr Lester



Numeracy Puzzle

You are in an airport, rushing to get a plane.

You realise you need to tie your shoe.

There is one of those moving travelators ahead (the flat escalator things).

Will you save time overall if you tie your shoe on the moving travelator, or on the normal floor?

We're keen to get some competition going! Try this numeracy problem at home, if you think you have an answer, submit it to us using the given link or QR code! We'll post a leaderboard in the next newsletter.

https://forms.office.com/e/jX1H1N3pii



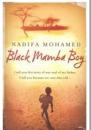
Library / The Hive

Historical Fiction recommendations from the Hive



Black Mamba Boy - Nadifa Mohamed

Aden,1935. Home to Jama, a ten year-old boy. When his mother dies unexpectedly Jama is forced to go to his native Somalia, the land of his nomadic ancestors. War is on the horizon and the fascist Italian forces who control parts of east Africa are preparing for battle. Jama decides he has to search for his father, who disappeared when he was a baby. And so he begins an journey which takes him north through Djibouti, war-torn Eritrea and Sudan, to Egypt. And from there, aboard a ship transporting Jewish refugees, across the seas to Britain and freedom.



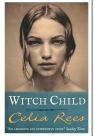
The Kings Head - Susan Price

A disembodied head is found on a bloody battleground by a priest and asks to be taken to see the king who has lost the battle. The priest instead takes him to his own king, where the head proves to be a storyteller of great importance.



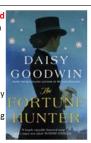
Witch Child - Celia Rees

When Mary sees her grandmother accused of witchcraft and hanged for the crime, she is silently hurried to safety by an unknown woman. The woman gives her tools to keep the record of her days - paper and ink. Mary is taken to a boat in Plymouth and from there sails to the New World where she hopes to make a new life among the pilgrims. But old superstitions die hard and soon Mary finds that she, like her grandmother, is the victim of ignorance and stupidity, and once more she faces important choices to ensure her survival. With a vividly evoked environment and characters skilfully and patiently drawn, this is a powerful literary achievement by Celia Rees that is utterly engrossing from start to finish.



The Fortune Hunter – Daisy Goodwin 6th form read In 1875, Sisi, the Empress of Austria is the woman that every man

desires and every woman envies.
Beautiful, athletic and intelligent, Sisi has everything - except happiness. Bored with the stultifying etiquette of the Hapsburg Court and her dutiful but unexciting husband, Franz Joseph, Sisi comes to England to hunt. She also comes looking for excitement and finds it in the dashing form of Captain Bay Middleton, the only man in Europe who can outride her. Ten years younger than her and engaged to the rich and devoted Charlotte, Bay has everything to lose by falling for a woman who can never be his. But Bay and the Empress are as reckless as each other, and their mutual attraction is a force that cannot be denied.



House Stars of the Week

CAVERSHAM HOUSE C1 Piper Fisher C2 Sophie Ashworth **C3** William Foulkes **C4 Bella Edwards C5 Kokoro Yeung Noah Lawrence C6 C7** Jessica Loveridge Ostin Malaj **C8** Jack Morgan C9 C10 Jamie Lambourne C11 Liam Taylor Harry Turnbull C12 **Emily Zachariadis** C13

GROVE HOUSE	
G1	Annabelle Lam
G2	Romeo Delgado Rosa
G3	Enya Gallagher
G4	Brooke Glister, Elizabeth Green & George Sheppard
G5	Zinnia Hodge
G6	Cara Fothergill & Vedant Jaiman
G7	Elizabeth Lam
G8	Jess Nothnagel
G 9	Aisha Alizada
G10	Greta Nagy
G11	Annabel Moore
G12	Ava Sherfield & Emma Kelemen
G13	Carli Zinzani

ROSEHILL HOUSE R1 Advika Badkur R2 **Holly Curtayne** Ellie Bloxam R3 **Ellie Naylor** R4 R5 **Lily Hallett** R6 **Alice Loar** R7 Luke Mcadden-Evans R8 **Dylan Fallon** R9 Rohan Janjuha **R10 Nathan Salisbury** R11 Joshua Smith R12 **Grace Toomey Aimee Yeung R13**

MAPLEDU	RHAM HOUSE
M1	Amelia Webster
M2	Sophia May
М3	Kenny Parry
M4	Jacob He
M5	Imogen Rosewell
М6	Oscar Harvey
M7	Millie Waterman
M8	Erin Gilbertson
М9	Lily West
M10	Aura Jankauskaite
M11	Giselle Kwok
M12	Charis Salisbury
M13	Freyja Baldursdottir



LIVE Virtual Careers Information Event

Find out about all the apprenticeship and graduate opportunities that AWE has to offer.

Students in Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 from your school/college, and their parents, are invited to attend.



Thursday 29th February 2024 6:30pm-7:45pm

- Whether you're looking to leave school and take up an Apprenticeship opportunity, or you're heading to Uni to complete your degree, join us for this live session to find out about our wide range of entry-level opportunities.
- The session will give you the opportunity to discover more about our roles and to ask questions directly of some of our current Apprentices and Graduates.
- Join our information session to find out how you can reveal your potential and help support the defence and security of the UK.

Click here to book a place:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/awecareers-information-evening-tickets-751576765337?aff=oddtdtcreator

Please contact your EBP if you have any queries about this exciting opportunity.





Inspiring our future workforce



Industry Webinar: Healthtech

A rapidly growing industry that aims to improve patient outcomes and streamline healthcare delivery through the use of digital tools and platforms.

Presented by Jonathan Evans
The Association of British
HealthTech Industries

Tuesday 5th December 2023 6 - 7pm

Please book via the Adviza Portal under '<u>Events</u>' Cost: FREE | Suitable for all ages

For more information please email careersguidance@adviza.org.uk



0118 402 7050 | www.adviza.org.uk



Careers Corner

Insight into TFL (Transport for London) Virtual Event

Tuesday, 28 November 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Open to all students in Y11, Y12 Y13

Targeted to students looking to get into Engineering, Business and Technology

Application link à https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/InsightIntoTFL

AICPA CIMA Virtual Insight Event

Wednesday, 29 November 2023, 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Open to all students Y11, Y12 Y13

Targeted to students looking to get into Accounting, Finance & Investment Management, and Business

Application link à https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AICPACIMAVirtualEvent

Insight to Lloyds Banking Group

Tuesday, 5 December 2023, 5.00pm-6.00pm

Open to all students in Y11, Y12 Y13

Targeted to students looking to get into Business, Finance, Accounting, Data Analytics, Technology, Risk, and HR

Application link à https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ LloydsBankingGroupCareersLive

RAF Engineering Insight Event

Tuesday, 5 December 2023, 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Open to all students in Y11, Y12 Y13 targeted to students looking to get into Engineering and STEM

Application link à https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RAFVirtualEngineering

University of Surrey December Taster Days

Now taking bookings for:

12 December, 9.30am—2.30pm

Biological Sciences - Stag Hill Campus

Nutritional Sciences - Stag Hill Campus

We also have a waiting list for:

Nursing - Manor Park Campus

12 December, 9.30am - 2.30pm

Students will need to provide their own lunch; we will have café's and eateries on site to purchase lunch if required.



To book any of theses sessions please use the following link:

https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/surrey/decembertaster-days-2023

If you have any questions please email study@surrey.ac.uk

Teacher of English

Main Scale, Full and Part time positions for September 2024 start

We are looking for an outstanding, passionate and dynamic practitioner to join our highly successful and well-resourced English department of 12 staff. This post would be suitable for either an ECT or an experienced teacher. A willingness to teach across all years and abilities is essential.

You should be a highly motivated and successful individual who is willing to contribute to all aspects of the school vision and the many enrichment activities that the department offers.

Full details and an application form can be accessed via our website

Teacher of Physical Education

Main Scale Full time/part-time.

Required for January 2024

This is an excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic and well-qualified teacher of Physical Education to join a successful department with excellent resources and facilities. A willingness to teach across all years and abilities is essential. We welcome applications from ECTs, for whom we have a superb induction programme.

The successful candidate should be a highly motivated and successful practitioner who is willing to contribute to all aspects of the school vision and the many extracurricular activities that the department offers.

Full details and an application form can be accessed via our website.

Senior Leisure Attendant

Part-time position, evenings and weekends

Up to £11.50ph dependent on experience and qualifications.

We are seeking to appoint a Senior Leisure Attendant to join our dedicated team. You will have level 2 fitness instructing or preferably level 3 personal training, working mainly weekends and some evenings during the week.

You will have responsibility for supervising the use of the sports centre facilities whilst maintaining high standards of cleanliness and customer service. No previous experience is necessary as training will be provided, but an interest in fitness is an advantage.

Full details can be accessed on our website.

Teacher of Geography

Main Scale, Full time/Part time

Required for January 2024

We are looking for an outstanding, passionate and dynamic practitioner to join our highly successful and well-resourced Geography department of 6 staff.

A willingness to teach across all years and abilities is essential. We welcome applications from ECTs, for whom we have a superb induction programme.

Applications will be considered on receipt.

Full details and an application form can be accessed via our website.

Teacher of Maths

Main Scale, Full and Part time positions for September 2024 start

We are looking for an outstanding, passionate and dynamic practitioner to join our highly successful and well-resourced Maths department of 12 staff. A willingness to teach across all years and abilities is essential. Maths and Further Maths are very popular subjects at A level. We welcome applications from ECTs, for whom we have a superb induction programme.

Full details and an application form can be accessed via our website

Examinations Invigilator

£10.79 per hour, Flexible hours

We are looking to expand our team of invigilators to support the running of internal and external examinations.

You should enjoy working as part of a team and an interest in working in a school is essential. This will ideally suit responsible, punctual, calm, organised and approachable individuals. Full training will be provided.

Full details and an application form can be accessed via our website.

Community

SEND Short Breaks - Chance to Dance Stars CIC - Dance and Multi Activity Program

Short breaks are available for Reading children aged 5 years to 18 years old.

We cater for children 5 years to 25 years at all our activities. (discounted short breaks not available for 19-25yrs)

Chance to Dance Stars CIC will provide group activities for children & young people with disabilities to have new experiences with sport and dance, to have fun and to build upon social and physical needs.

Sundays 10am to 2pm

Session Information

12th, 19th and 26th November 3rd and 17th December.

Christmas Holiday Camp 27th and 28th December

Contact: Victoria Andrews 07736 343570 or sendanceclub@hotmail.com



Further information and booking instructions can be found here:

Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Chance to Dance Stars CIC - Dance and Multi Activity Program

Christmas <u>SEND</u> Holiday Clubs 2023 - Make/Sense Theatre



Make/Sense Theatre's popular holiday clubs are back for Christmas 2023!

We will be running sessions for young people aged 4-25, with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) as well as more complex, medical needs.

Our highly-trained members of staff will design sessions perfect for all ages, and integrating a love of performing arts with opportunities to socialise, meet other young people, play games and have fun!

Rosie Durance Tel: 07554664825 email: rosie@makesensetheatre.com

Further information and booking details please click on the link:

Reading Directory | Christmas SEND Holiday Clubs 2023 - Make/Sense Theatre

Holiday Activities and Food scheme (HAF)

Brighter Futures for Children co-ordinates the Holiday Activities and Food scheme on behalf of Reading Borough Council, funded by the Department for Education.

Please note: HAF registration is only open to children eligible for pupil premium free school meals.

Further information and booking details please click on the link:

Holiday Activities and Food scheme (HAF) - Brighter Futures For Children

Link to Short Breaks page:

Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks (all ability activities & overnight breaks)

SEND Short Breaks December 2023 Session - Reading Play, Ranger Station

We will be holding two sessions on Thursday 21st December - Age 4-7 and Age 8-12 years Reading Play T:0118 937 3283 E: reading.play@reading.gov.uk



Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks December 2023 Session - Reading Play, Ranger Station

